

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



May 1990

Vol. 3, No. 4



1990
INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR



Literacy 2000 Conference Planned

Literacy programs, projects and services spanning three continents will be examined at the "Literacy 2000: The Next Ten Years" conference scheduled for October 18-21 at Douglas College in New Westminster.

Speakers at the Conference, which is one of the 1989/90 cost-shared projects jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the Secretary of State, include literacy practitioners from Canada, the U.S., England, Wales, France, and Nicaragua. The Minister of Education in the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, Fernando Cardenal, will report on the second phase of the Nicaraguan Literacy Campaign on Friday, October 19.

Other speakers include:

- * John Ryan, Chief, Secretariat for International Literacy Year, UNESCO: Paris
- * Alan Wells, Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit: England and Wales
- * Jennifer Horsman, Women in Literacy: Ontario
- * James Turk, Basic Education for Skills Training, Ontario Federation of Labour

Some of the projects on the agenda are:

- * The Hackney Literacy Program - London, England
- * The Puente Project - Berkeley, California
- * The Snowdrift Chipewyan Literacy Project - Northwest Territories

- * The Multicultural Literacy Centre - Toronto
- * The Regina Public Library Literacy Program
- * The Read-Write Program - Kingston, Ontario

For more information or to be placed on the conference mailing list, contact:

Joyce Cameron
Douglas College
700 Royal Avenue
New Westminster, B.C.
Tel. 527-5479 or Fax: (604) 527-5155

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 W. Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
684-0624 1-800-663-1293

If you would like to be on the newsletter mailing list, please call the Centre. We welcome receiving your literacy news by phone or mail.

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Lower Mainland Society for Literacy & Employment,
publishers of Voices magazine

The Literacy Materials Bulletin

The first issue of the Literacy Materials Bulletin - reviews of selected instructional materials for the adult basic education classroom - has been sent to approximately 350 literacy groups and individuals throughout the province. The bulletin is produced by the seven-member Literacy Materials Committee, one of the 1989/90 cost-shared projects funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the Secretary of State.

The bulletin contains reviews of short fiction, biography, a reading workbook series, a nutrition guide, a tutor handbook, and a math series. The texts range in reading level from basic to intermediate and have been field tested by B.C. instructors of A.B.E. The bulletin includes a form on the back page for readers to submit reviews of their favourite material for consideration by the committee for future bulletins. The review form has also been included in this edition of the newsletter.

Joan Acosta, committee chairperson and editor of the Westcoast Reader, says the committee seeks to expand the bulletin in future issues to meet the needs of teachers in the field.

"We are looking for input from people in the field who know of materials that have been tried and found useful," she explains. "We are mainly interested in new material more than old, though we plan to include a 'golden oldie' in each issue as well."

"Suggestions of materials with Canadian content would be especially welcome," adds Ms. Acosta.

Some of the criteria the committee

considers in selecting materials for review are:

- * adult-oriented and interesting to learners
- * free of age, sex and race bias
- * appropriate to the reading level of learners
- * up-to-date and easy to use
- * designed to encourage meaningful discussion and critical thinking
- * successful with learners
- * currently in print

The first edition of the bulletin was mailed in May to A.B.E. coordinators and instructors at school districts and colleges; college presidents and directors of continuing education; Project Literacy groups and related organizations; and native and workplace literacy program contacts. A second edition of the bulletin is expected in the fall.

For more information on the Literacy Materials Bulletin contact any of the committee members listed below:

Joan Acosta, Capilano College
986-3945

Barbara Bate, Fraser Valley College
792-0025

Lorraine Fox,
Native Tutoring Centre (Vancouver)
874-0664

Laurie Gould,
V.C.C. King Edward Campus
875-6111 (local 498)

Linda Hackett,
Adult Literacy Contact Centre
684-0624, 1-800-663-1293 (toll free)

Andrew Kennedy, Camosun College
370-3324

Lorraine Wong, Langley ESL/ABE
534-0333

Resource persons to the committee are Norma Kidd, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, and Thomas Quigley, Vancouver Public Library.

Additional copies of the first bulletin are available by phoning the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

Telephone Directory Serves Non-readers

BC Telephone customers who are unable to use the telephone book to locate a number may register with the company to have the directory assistance charges waived, either when calling from home or using an outside phone.

The exemptions policy is designed "for anyone who is unable to use the book", says Karen Cosford, Manager, B.C. Tel Special Needs Centre, who is responsible for assisting all special needs customers in the Greater Vancouver area. "Our idea was that persons unable to read should get directory assistance free of charge," explains Ms. Cosford. "To qualify, a person must simply be unable to use the book." The service is automatic when a call is placed from home, and also applies when a caller identifies himself or herself to the operator as a registered "B" customer.

To register, applicants must fill out a form (or have it completed on their behalf) requiring name, telephone number, address, signature, and the signature of a certifying official (for example a teacher or program director). Forms are available at local B.C. Tel business offices and PhoneMarts, or call the Centre for Special Needs (430-6378 in the Lower Mainland, 1-800-242-8643 toll free.)

Community Adult Education Day in Prince George

The Learners' Event at the College of New Caledonia, Prince George, on Friday, May 4 was "a grand success," reports Ann Lyle of the the College's VALT (Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring) program. About 160 of the 275 persons registered took part in a day of workshops, discussion and videos. A student panel discussion on "Overcoming Obstacles to Returning to School" was followed by a series of workshops on topics ranging from "Choosing a Career to Match Your Skills," and "Budgeting Your Income" to "Getting That Job: Applying, Resume Writing, Job Interview." Videos available for viewing included "Bluffing It," "Marks on Paper," and "Illiteracy: The Challenge." Featured speakers were Mary John of the Stoney Creek Indian Reserve and local author Brigid Moran in a dialogue with the audience.

Theatre Workshop at V.C.C.

Vancouver's Headlines Theatre and learners at V.C.C. King Edward Campus are preparing for a week-long "Power Play" workshop June 16-20. The intensive workshop will introduce learners to theatre techniques and provide them an opportunity to develop a short play which uses theatrical images to present and discuss issues in their lives. The workshops are aimed at presenting a public performance at King Edward Campus on the afternoon of June 20.

Worksite Forum

Representatives of business, labour and government attended a forum on the topic of "Basic Skills Upgrading on the Worksite" sponsored by the A.B.E.A.B.C. on April 26 at Simon Fraser University, Harbourside

Campus. The forum outlined the partnerships developed between MacMillan Bloedel, the Council of Forest Industries of B.C. and the I.W.A. to combat workplace illiteracy. The panel of speakers included: Gary Johncox, V.P., Human Resources, MacMillan Bloedel; Burt Hawrysh, V.P., Occupational Safety and Health, C.O.F.I.; Ingrid Fischer, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, Job Training Department, Keith Gray, V.P., Business Council of B.C., and Wayne Kingston, MacMillan Bloedel and A.L.L.O.W.

Literacy Panel at Librarians' Conference

"Libraries, Literacy and the Year 2000" was the theme of the B.C. Teacher Librarians Association annual conference in Parksville last month. School districts from throughout the province were represented at the three day event (April 26-28) which was organized by the Port Alberni Teacher Librarians Association. Lynn Shoop, Director of Instruction for the Nanaimo school board, organized the feature speakers. A highlight of the conference was the literacy panel from A.L.L.O.W. (Adult Literacy Learners on the Way, a Nanaimo learners' group) which featured a panel discussion followed by a dialogue with the audience.

"We received lots of really positive feedback at the conference from that event," said Ms. Shoop. "Everyone was impressed with the openness of the young people. The discussion really set people back; it really laid out the realities of the situation." (Members of the panel representing A.L.L.O.W. were Connie English, Wayne Kingston, James Lightheart and Paula Melvin.) Lynn Hunter of Malaspina College and A.L.L.O.W. fielded questions from the audience.

The keynote speaker was Ken Lowe, Director of the Action Studies Institute in Calgary. His opening address on the topic: "Literacy, Knowledge & Power: Realities and Myths" was followed by a speech titled "Literacy: Process and Character Skills for Independent Learning." Lorne MacRae, a literacy practitioner with the Calgary Board of Education, also addressed the conference.

A "Year 2000" panel consisting of a parent, a school administrator, a B.C. Teacher's Federation representative and a teacher examined the upcoming millenium year and addressed the issue of what each could do to promote literacy within the educational system. The conference was "very successful," according to Ms. Shoop, who credits the Port Alberni group for putting together the event.

Literacy Centre Opens

A ribbon-cutting ceremony with representatives of federal and civic governments in attendance highlighted the official opening of the Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Tutor Training and Literacy Practicum Centre on May 15. The Centre has just completed two months of training sessions (held Wednesday evenings 7-9 p.m.) and the program is ongoing. The program is cooperatively funded by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, the Vancouver School Board and the federal government.

The ceremony was attended by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House staff and board members, federal and City of Vancouver representatives, and invited guests from the literacy community. Guests were invited to meet and mingle with volunteer tutors and their students as they worked.

The ribbon-cutting was performed by Judy Roth, Program Coordinator,

Career and Educational Services, Vancouver School Board. Also taking part in the ceremony were: Dick Stewart, literacy coordinator, Gary Pharness, tutor training coordinator, and Thad Allen, Executive Director of L.M.N.H.; Michael Lee, of the Hon. Kim Campbell's office; and Ernie Schaitz, chairman of the Board of L.M.N.H.

Pharness said the ceremony represented a demonstration of support for the learners at the Centre, and both he and Stewart emphasized the role of tutors in their welcoming remarks.

"Participation by tutors has been especially strong and encouraging over the last two months," said Pharness, "and we see the opening of this Centre as a validation of that success." Lee said Minister Campbell, who holds the federal Justice portfolio, recognizes the importance of such programs to the community.

The Centre's hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-9:30 p.m., and tutor training sessions are held Wednesday 7-9 p.m.

ILY Celebrated at BCLA Convention

Literacy issues and activities featured prominently at this year's B.C. Library Association's Annual Conference held in Victoria May 2-6. A highlight of the conference was the announcement of a \$150,000 joint grant to the BCLA from the provincial Library Services Branch and the Secretary of State, reports BCLA spokesperson Thomas Quigley, of the Vancouver Public Library. The grant will fund the "Libraries-Literacy Link Project" which is mandated to focus on three issues: library staff training, collections and resources, and promotion to the public. A nine

member advisory committee representing various public libraries province-wide has been struck to co-ordinate implementation and recommend strategy to the BCLA executive, which will oversee the project.

Over 40 people attended a workshop co-convened by Quigley and Linda Kalman (of the VPL Carnegie branch). The focus was "Learners and Libraries," with guest speakers Basha Rahn, Tutor Coordinator, adult learning program, Sooke school district, and Connie English, vice-president of A.L.L.O.W. The workshop provided an overview of library activities to date during International Literacy Year and an opportunity for participants to share projects, ideas and concerns about library initiatives.

The BCLA's Literacy Interest Group met on May 6 to share information, peruse displays and hear a variety of speakers. JoAnne Pasquale, of the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development, Victoria, and Peggy Pepper, sales representative with Fearon Publications, presented a display of available materials, and Ms. Kalman outlined her experience with library tours for learners at the VPL's Britannia Branch. Laura Houle, a Master of Library Science student at U.B.C., reported on her recently completed B.C. Public Library Literacy survey, and Quigley provided a review of recommended materials and upcoming events.

Further information on the "Libraries-Literacy Link Project" can be obtained from Sheila Wallace at the Surrey Public Library.

Literacy Anthology Published

Peter Gzowski, June Callwood, Morley Callaghan, Matt Cohen, Robertson Davies, and Joy Kogawa are just a few of the Canadian writers

represented in the new anthology More Than Words Can Say, a collection of personal perspectives on literacy published by McClelland and Stewart. The essays in the anthology range from whimsical anecdotes to thought-provoking insights concerning the nature and importance of literacy. Cartoonists Ben Wicks and Aislin (Terry Mosher) have also contributed; the forward is by journalist and broadcaster Knowlton Nash.

The book was conceived by the Canadian Organization for Development Through Education (CODE) to commemorate International Literacy Year, to promote awareness of literacy and to support literacy projects in the developing world. The publishers are donating all proceeds to CODE, and with the endorsement of the Canadian Booksellers' Association, a percentage of proceeds from sales will be donated to the organization. As well, all proceeds will be matched by CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, and used by CODE to provide books, paper for indigenous publishing, and educational equipment in 40 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The paperback edition of More Than Words Can Say is available in local bookstores for \$9.95.

A.B.E. Membership Renewals Due

Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. members who have not renewed for 1990/91 should do so now, reports Bob Irvine, Association membership committee chairman. Yearly memberships expire March 31, and expiry dates are indicated on the mailing label of your copy of "Groundwork," the A.B.E.A.B.C. journal. (Members are paid up if the label reads "91/3".) To check your membership status, contact Bob Irvine at Capilano College, 986-1911, local 2581.

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

PL ABBOTSFORD-MATSQUI

Contact: Cynthia Andruske/Wendy Watson

Fraser Valley College

33844 King Road

Abbotsford, B.C. 853-7441

Guest speaker at the April meeting was Sheila Robbins, of the Soroptimist International of Abbotsford-Matsqui. Soroptimist, a women's service organization which promotes the interests of women in 46 countries throughout the world, supports fundraising in areas such as educational scholarships, services for battered women, and literacy projects in Third World countries. The local chapter, as a sponsoring agency, is interested in supporting local projects and has donated \$25 to PL Abbotsford-Matsqui.

Vice-Chair Ranjit Diwana reported that Matsqui-Abbotsford Community Services has initiated a pilot project in conjunction with Canada Employment to train volunteer literacy tutors. The project, coordinated by Loretta Higgins, runs from May 1 to July 31.

Wendy Watson and Cynthia Andruske are submitting a proposal to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology/Secretary of State for funds to put the literacy play "Marks on Paper" on tour during the remainder of International Literacy Year. The play is a project of PL Abbotsford-Matsqui.

"Stepping Stones," the learner event held in conjunction with the performance of "Reading the Signs" at Fraser Valley College on March 31 was organized by a sub-committee of the

following: Joy Haight (Chair); Ranbir Manjat; Jackie Phare; Millie Watson; Wendy Watson, Cynthia Andruske.

FORT ST JOHN LITERACY SOCIETY

Contact: Romi Haseo

Fort St. John Public Library

10349-100th Street

Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 3Z2

Phone: 785-3731

FRASER VALLEY EAST LITERACY ASSOCIATION

Contact: Gail Newby

45405 Stevenson Road

Sardis, B.C. V2R 1M2

Phone: 858-4913

The Association has wound up its activities until September. Events planned for the fall include a possible mall display of literacy materials. The Association will meet again on September 12.

PL GREATER VANCOUVER

Contact: Hendrik Hoekema

Simon Fraser University

Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

Phone: 291-3298

Guest speaker at the May 25 meeting was literacy researcher and author Dr. Hanna Arlene Fingeret. (We will report on Dr. Fingeret's speech in the next issue of the newsletter.) The next meeting will be held on June 22nd in the 5th floor Board Room, VCC, King Edward Campus, 1155 E. Broadway at 9 am. The speaker will be Gary Pharness.

PL KELOWNA

Contact: Betty Knox, (President) or Maxine Veach (Coordinator)

P.O. Box 1886, Station A,

Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 8P2

Phone: 762-2163

LITERACY KITIMAT

Contact: Janette Camazzola

Kitimat Community Services Society

#201 - 370 City Centre

Kitimat, B.C. V8C 1T6

Phone: 632-3139

The Society's "Reader Friendly" promotion - cards illustrating the international reading symbol displayed in the windows of local businesses - is nearly complete, and the "friendly" logo has been advertised locally in ten languages through a quarter page ad in the Northern Sentinel. "The town is certainly aware of us," reports Ms. Camazzola, who adds that she is getting positive feedback on the promotion, "mainly from those who can read."

The group has initiated a series of tutor training sessions incorporating five tape presentations produced by local literacy practitioners (teachers, psychologists and special education staff employed by the Kitimat school board).

Literacy Kitimat meets the first Monday of the month. Note the change of address (see above). While the offices of the Kitimat Community Services Society will be closed during July and August, Janette can be reached at 632-3927.

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

NANAIMO LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie
#314-350 Terminal Avenue
Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 4J7
Phone: 754-1704

PL PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM

Contact: Linda Perkins
The Write Place
192A Morison Avenue
(Mailing address: General Delivery)
Parksville, B.C. V0R 2S0
Phone: 248-4041 or 248-4042

PL PRINCE GEORGE

Contact: Murry Krause
Coordinator, United Way
Box 494
Prince George, B.C. V2L 4S6
Phone: 561-1040
Fax: 562-8102

PL PRINCE RUPERT

Contact: Sheila Lid
1920 Atlin Avenue
Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1E8
Phone: 624-6698 or 627-7178

PL SUNSHINE COAST

Contact: Diane Evans
c/o Community Services
Volunteer Action Centre
Box 1069, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0
Phone: 885-5881

PL SURREY/DELTA

Contact: Bev Yaworsky, Surrey
Public Library
Phone: 591-4312, or
Ene Haabnit, Newton Public Library
Phone: 596-7401

PL Surrey/Delta is planning a special event for International Literacy Day, September 8 at Surrey Place Mall - a day of exhibits, displays, videos, storytelling and entertainment, geared to both adults and children. "Our hope is that the whole community will get involved," says Ms. Haabnit, "we are planning to have registration for local literacy programs available on the site."

The Book Voyage, which has just completed its tour of the Kwantlen region, visited the Guildford Public Library on the holiday weekend of May 19-21, as well as local literacy programs (including the Invergarry Learning Centre and Kwantlen college) the following week. (PL Surrey/Delta will have more details to report on Book Voyage events in the next newsletter.)

Guest speaker at the group's May 16 meeting was Sharlene Lazin, from the Surrey Association for Learning Disabled Adults. Her talk, which addressed the need for cooperation between literacy and learning disabilities groups, was accompanied by a display of selected resources.

The next meeting will be held on June 20 at 3 p.m. in the Whalley Library, 10347 - 135th Street. A group-sharing session on teaching resources available in classrooms and libraries

(instructional and promotional materials, videos, etc.) is scheduled.

PL TERRACE

Contact: Larry Bolingbroke
Northwest Community College
P.O. Box 726
Terrace, B.C. V8G 4C2
Phone: 635-6511 Fax: 635-3511

PL Terrace has received first stage approval for cost-shared funds to enable it to establish a volunteer tutor program in the fall. The next meeting will be held on June 4 at 7 p.m. in the Skeena Junior High School Library.

PL VICTORIA

Contact: Linda Mitchell
c/o R.E.A.D. Society
720 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4G7
Phone: 388-4721

Following the tutor recognition evening and welcoming ceremony for the Book Voyage on May 1, the Learners' Network passed the B.C. book to Camosun College, the Saanich and Sooke school districts, and Spectrum Community School. The Adult Learning Centre in the Sooke school district hosted a Book Voyage reception with local dignitaries, learners, tutors and staff. The Centre is now offering Open Learning Agency courses to learners in the Western Communities and forming a new writer's group.

The annual general meeting of PL

LITERACY B.C. UPDATE

Victoria is scheduled for June 11 at 7 p.m. at Spectrum Community School. The agenda includes a presentation by Victoria area learners of the literacy play, "Marks on Paper." Plans are underway for the second annual Peter Gzowski Invitational Golf Tournament in Victoria on September 21. The Learner's Network is hosting a barbeque for all its tutors and learners on Sunday, June 10.

LITERACY B.C. WEST KOOTENAYS

Contact: Judy Wearmouth
Castlegar Public Library
1005-3rd Street
Castlegar, B.C. V1N 2A2
Phone: 365-7765

Local interest is high in this recently formed group, reports Castlegar librarian Judy Wearmouth, particularly within the library community. The group has had one follow-up to its founding meeting held March 31 in the Castlegar Library and boasts active participation from Selkirk College, community groups and most of the eleven libraries in the West Kootenay Library Association. Its application for society status has been approved, and a grant application to the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology has passed the stage one process.

A "warm-up session" for the planned pilot tutor training program was held May 29 at the Valley Learning Centre (Selkirk College). The event was organized by ABE instructor Leslie Tenta and Wendy Tagami of Selkirk College. "The object is to form a one to one tutor training group in the fall," reports Ms. Wearmouth, "There is

certainly lots of interest in Castlegar - we have plenty of volunteers already." The Volunteer Coordinator for PL West Kootenay is Sue Port, a librarian and experienced volunteer/trainer. PL director Deborah Bouliane of the Trail and District Public Library, and chairperson of the West Kootenay Library Association, says her role is to "keep literacy in the forefront and ensure that the member libraries in the Association are kept up to date on PL activities."

PL WILLIAMS LAKE

Contact: Debby DeMare
P.O. Box 4596
Williams Lake, B.C.
V2G 2V6
Phone: 398-8400

Literacy activity in Williams Lake has spawned a new learners group which calls itself "L.I.F.F.E." - Literacy is Freedom for Everyone. The group operates separately from PL Williams Lake, but has a representative on the PL board. The learners are meeting weekly until the end of June and plan to launch a promotional campaign to "fill up the basic literacy and tutoring classes at Cariboo College in the fall," says Ms. DeMare.

The aims of L.I.F.F.E. are:

- * to promote awareness of the needs of adult learners/students
- * to provide information and resources
- * to provide an ongoing support group and a place to meet for adult learners/students

The group will cooperate with PL Williams Lake in seeking funding for a literacy services/drop-in Centre.

PL Williams Lake held its annual general meeting on Saturday, May 12 (postponed from May 5). It elected nine board members, two of whom are students. The L.I.F.F.E. representative on the board is Shanon Doncaster. She can be contacted at 392-2560. The board will meet again on June 4 to plan events for the fall.

Message From the Contact Centre

The Contact Centre, as the location of a complete and permanent collection of the materials reviewed by the Literacy Materials Committee (see p.2), now has all of the publications mentioned in the first bulletin. If you work or live in Vancouver or happen to be visiting the city and you would like to see these recommended teaching materials, please feel free to come to the Centre. The office, at 622 - 510 West Hastings Street (at Richards) is open Monday to Friday 9:00-5:00. And, if you have a favourite teaching resource we urge you to fill out and return the literacy materials review form on page 8 — or pass it on to someone else who teaches.

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. We provide information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to upgrade their skills through adult basic education. Our toll-free number for learners outside the lower mainland is:

1-800-633-1293

RECOMMENDED LITERACY MATERIALS REVIEW

Title _____

Author _____

Publisher _____ Copyright Date _____

Where is it available? _____

Level (please circle)

*Basic (Grade 0-3)

**Functional (Grade 4-6)

***Independent (Grade 7-9)

Please be as specific as possible in describing the material. If reviewing print material, please attach a photocopy of the table of contents and a sample page of the text to assist us in evaluating the material.

1. Describe the material _____

2. How do you use it? _____

3. Why does it work with learners? _____

4. What are the weaknesses, if any? _____

Please feel free to elaborate on any aspect of this material. Submissions should be sent to:

**Joan Acosta
Capilano College
2055 Purcell Way
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7J 3H5**

Recommended by: _____

(name)

(institution)